REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending, with claims 1, 12, 14, and 16-20 currently amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical error and that support for the amendments to claims 1, 12, 14, and 16-20 is found at least in Figs. 1A through 4B, and thus, no new matter is added by the amendments.

REJECTIONS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection in view of the foregoing claim amendments.

Applicant notes that the Examiner failed to establish where each and every element of the claims is taught in the prior art, as required by MPEP 2131 et al., thereby precluding Applicant from responding more specifically. For example, with regard to the rejection of claim 21, Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 2,946,493 to Bury et al. fails to disclose "at least one ball attached proximate said first end and at least one ball attached between said first end and said second end approximately midway therebetween," as required by claim 21. Applicant is unable, however, to argue the Examiner's interpretation of the reference because the Examiner has not specifically set forth such interpretation. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the Examiner establish where each and every element of the claim is taught in the prior art when setting forth the grounds of rejection, should there be any, in any future correspondence in order to enable Applicant to respond specifically, and in order to create a clear record of the grounds of rejection for appeal.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-21 are currently pending, with claims 1, 12, 14, and 16-20 currently amended, with no new matter added by way of the amendments.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments and consideration of the remarks.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned attorney should there be any questions or concerns with this paper.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of March, 2007.

George P. Bonanto

Reg. No. 59,717

MYERS & KAPLAN
(Intellectual Property Law, LLC 1899 Powers Ferry Road Suite 310
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Tel: 770.541.7444 Fax: 770.541.7448

Email: gbonanto@mkiplaw.com